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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 508

October 1, 1943

IMPORTATION OF DIVI-DIVI INCREASING. Divi-divi (*Caesalpinia coriaria*), an important source of tannin, is coming to the United States from the other Americas in larger quantities than before the war. The divi-divi tree, from the pods of which tannin is extracted, is being grown in increasing numbers in Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, and other American tropical countries. Formerly most of the commercial tannin was obtained from wild trees. Now orchards of divi-divi trees are under cultivation in those countries. (New York Times)

ARGENTINA SIGNS EGG CONTRACT. Under the contract recently signed with the Food Ministry of the United Nations for the 1943-44 and 1944-45 seasons, Argentina will send to Britain this year an estimated 450,000,000 eggs -- dried or in the shell -- compared with about 250,000,000 dried eggs in 1942-43. (Christian Science Monitor)

BOLIVIA PRODUCING OWN MOLASSES FOR ALCOHOL. Distillers of alcohol in Bolivia are said to be starting their own sugarcane plantations for the production of molasses, from which they will make alcohol. (Washington Evening Star)

PEAT RESERVES NEAR RIO DE JANEIRO TO SOLVE FUEL PROBLEM. The Brazilian Government is starting the exploitation of peat reserves in the suburbs of Rio de Janeiro to solve the city's fuel problem, which is acute because of the distance between the country's coal deposits and Rio. Production of 1,000 tons of peat daily is expected. The Government is erecting houses to accommodate the 2,000 persons who will be employed. (Export Trade and Shipper)

CUBAN MOLASSES DEAL FAILS. The Cuban Sugar Commission has announced that negotiations for the sale of Cuban high-test and blackstrap molasses to the United States have been broken off, because the Cuban delegates could not accept the basis of the offer made by the Federal officials. The United States negotiators offered 2.40 cents per pound of sugar content for the high-test molasses; the Cubans asked 2.50 cents. For blackstrap molasses the United States offered 5.58 cents a visible gallon; the Cubans asked 13.50 cents. A spokesman of the delegation said the Cubans would be willing to resume negotiations if new terms were offered. (Washington Evening Star)

PRICE CONTROL DRAFTED IN EL SALVADOR. Legislation providing for establishment of maximum prices for imported and domestic merchandise, including agricultural products, has been drafted for presentation to the Ministry of Finance in El Salvador. (Export Trade and Shipper)

ECUADOR TO HAVE LARGE CROPS. Forecasts for the 1943 agricultural crops in Ecuador promise one of the most bountiful yields in history. Crops of rice, cacao, coffee, rubber, cinchona, and forest products, such as balsa wood, are especially large. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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MEXICAN AGRICULTURE SEEKS RELAXATION OF U.S. FRUIT-IMPORTATION QUARANTINES. Under discussion at present is a relaxation of the United States Department of Agriculture's quarantine against importation of Mexican oranges, other citrus fruits, and apples. The quarantine has been enforced to keep out fruitfly and other insect pests. There is a possibility that this quarantine can be relaxed, provided Mexican producers or exporters can give acceptable certification that their fruit is free from pests or blight, or provided sterilization processes can be arranged to free the fruit from insect contamination. An earlier quarantine on Mexican potatoes was lifted subject to similar precautions. (Christian Science Monitor)

MEXICO DECREES PAY INCREASES. A decree ordering emergency salary increases for all Mexican workers earning less than 10 pesos (\$2.06) a day was signed recently by President Avila Camacho in an effort to close the gap between wages and prices, which were frozen several days ago. The changes will be on a sliding scale. Farm workers were granted increases of from 40 to 50 percent. (Christian Science Monitor)

PANAMA INDIAN TRIBE AGREES TO GET RUBBER. Panama's most remote tribe of Indians has gone to work for Uncle Sam. In the uncharted mountainous Boyano region, hundreds of able-bodied men have gone to work at the vital task of producing rubber from a virgin source. At a recent "powwow" between 7 Indian chiefs, representatives of the Ministry of Government and Justice of the Republic of Panama, and representatives of the Chicle Development Corporation, the fierce Cunas agreed to tap the trees and haul the rubber out to the nearest point of civilization for exportation to the United States. They agreed to do this, however, only after the promise had been given that no white men would penetrate their lands. (New York Times)

PEPPERMINT GROWING IN MEXICO. Approximately 30,000 peppermint plants are growing in Mexico. (Washington Evening Star)

OUTLOOK FOR PERU'S CROPS IS GOOD. The yield of the 1943 rice crop in Peru is now estimated at from 75,000 to 80,000 metric tons as compared with 65,000 tons in 1942. A Government commission has been appointed to survey the possibilities of increasing the rice acreage in the coastal valleys in order to ensure a minimum rice supply. The production of wheat in the mountain districts is expected to equal last year's output. (New York Journal of Commerce)

URUGUAY SIGNING MEAT CONTRACT WITH BRITAIN. The Uruguayan Minister of Agriculture has announced that Uruguay, under an Anglo-Uruguayan meat contract now nearing signature in London, will export all its available meat supply there until October 1944, with an increase in prices over the previous contract of 3.33 percent. Britain is acting as the representative of all the United Nations. (New York Journal of Commerce)

COFFEE ASSOCIATION PLANS FOR OCTOBER MEETING. The program for the 1943 meeting of the National Coffee Association has been arranged very carefully "with a view to the important problems that now face the industry." The meeting will be held at French Lick Springs, Ind., October 15-16. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 509

October 8, 1943

UNITED STATES IMPORTS MORE COFFEE. Importation of coffee during the week ending September 30 amounted to 427,938 bags, compared with 95,198 bags during the preceding week. Shipments from Brazil during the latter period were 11 times greater than those during the previous week, and from Colombia were 4 times greater. (New York Journal of Commerce)

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FEWER BANANAS FROM THE WEST COAST. Since the last of the big fruit boats on the west coast Central and South American run went into Government service last week, there will be fewer bananas in the United States. Some will still come in through Gulf and Atlantic ports, but the decline in importation of bananas to the Gulf ports is 66 percent and 65 percent to the East. The armed forces will take about 20 percent of what is left. Only 4 small banana boats are left of the fleet in the Pacific, and these can haul north only about 5,000 carloads a year, compared with 12,500 carloads in former years. (New York Journal of Commerce)

LARGE SHIPMENT OF CASEIN ARRIVES. One of the largest single shipments of casein, 44,000 bags, from Argentina arrived this week. Production of casein in Argentina for the final quarter of the year is expected to reach about 2,500 tons. Including stocks on hand, approximately 4,500 tons will be available for further shipment if import permits can be obtained. (New York Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA'S RUBBER SHORTAGE IS ACUTE. Argentina is suffering from an acute shortage of rubber for tires. The Government is making fresh efforts to get Brazilian rubber by offering foodstuffs in exchange, but Brazil's entire export supplies are being shipped to the United States. (Washington Evening Star)

ARGENTINE SUNFLOWER-OIL SURPLUS TO BE PURCHASED. The United States, acting in behalf of the United Nations, has agreed to purchase all Argentina's exportable surplus of oil derived from sunflower seed. The farmers of Argentina have been asked to increase their planting this year to meet the increased demand. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL PLANS TO OFFSET FROST DAMAGE TO SÃO PAULO COFFEE. Blossoms on the São Paulo coffee trees were reported to have been damaged recently by frost. Experts now claim that with good weather the trees may blossom again and the crop may be normal. In order to regulate the coffee industry, the Brazilian Government undertook a series of measures that affect the internal market exclusively. Coffee stocks were redistributed on a nation-wide basis, with the possible shortage in São Paulo replaced by coffee from other States. One of the measures undertaken was the cancellation of the regulation that withdrew 15 percent of the coffee from the market, and the purchase of this so-called "sacrifice quota" by the Government at specified prices. (New York Times)

TEA IMPORTS INCREASING. Tea is said to be entering the United States at an increased rate of 25 percent, indicating an early return to normal needs of 100,000,000 pounds a year. The quota for civilian consumption has been raised to 75,000,000 pounds annually plus 15,000,000 for Government use. (Washington Evening Star)

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BRAZIL'S OUTPUT OF COCOA LOWERED. Because of cold and rainy weather an earlier estimate made by the Cocoa Institute of Bahia, Brazil, placing the May-September output of cocoa at 600,000 bags of 132 pounds each, has been revised downward to 350,000 bags. The estimated yield for the year has been reduced from 2,000,000 to 1,700,000 bags. (New York Journal of Commerce)

NITRATE PURCHASED FROM CHILE. Negotiations between Chile and United States government agencies have been completed for the purchase of 700,000 tons of Chilean nitrate in this fiscal year, with a 60-day option for the purchase of an additional 300,000 tons. The possibility of bringing in the purchase depends upon shipping conditions. At present shipping space for only 500,000 tons is in sight. (New York Journal of Commerce)

CUBA SEIZES CUBAN-AMERICAN SUGAR MILL. The large sugar mill at Tinguaro, owned by the Cuban American Sugar Company, was seized on Monday by the Cuban Government. The seizure was supervised by the Minister of Agriculture. The mill was badly damaged by fire last January, and the employees were out of work through the spring producing season. The President of Cuba ordered the company, with headquarters in New York, to start repairs at once in order to give employment to workers by January 1 and to increase Cuba's sugar production for sale to the United States. Other mills of the Cuban American Company in Cuba were not affected by the seizure. Three days later the Cuban Government took over the Bacardi Rum distillery at Santiago because of the failure of the company to comply with a government ruling in a labor dispute. (New York Times)

MEXICO INCREASES SUGAR ACREAGE. In order to avoid the necessity of again importing sugar, as was done this year from El Salvador and Guatemala, and to meet the estimated needs for national sugar consumption next year, the President of Mexico has decreed obligatory sugarcane production on all lands in Mexico that are adapted to that cultivation. At present the production of the sugar centrals is far below the required 435,000 metric tons. (New York Journal of Commerce)

LACK OF RAIN HINDERS MEXICAN VANILLA-BEAN CROP. Lack of rain since the middle of July has prevented green vanilla beans in Mexico from developing as well as had been anticipated. While it is still early to get any definite idea as to the actual size of the coming crop, the belief is that not much more than half of the estimated 400,000 pounds will be reached. Last year about 175,000 were produced. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICAN VETERANS HAVE AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK COLONIES. In accordance with a decree providing for the establishment of agricultural and livestock colonies for old soldiers, the first veterans' cattle ranch is being set up in the State of Tamaulipas. The National Bank of Agricultural Credit will handle a fund of about \$1,000,000 for the soldiers' colonies in the Yaqui region in the State of Sonora, which comprise about 8,000 acres of well-irrigated land. (New York Times)

MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE MEETING IN URUGUAY. The Ministers of Agriculture of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay are meeting in Uruguay. President Vargas, who is also there, has stated that the "interests of one American nation are the interests of all the Americas." Argentina has an excess of certain materials Brazil needs -- meat, wheat, butter, and other foodstuffs -- especially for the southern markets which were exposed to severe droughts this year. (New York Times)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

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DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 510

October 15, 1943

ARGENTINA EXPORTS COTTON. Argentina exported 3,300 metric tons of cotton during the first 7 months of this year, compared with none in 1942. The third official estimate for the 1942-43 cotton crop is for a yield of 95,000 metric tons, an all-time high. (New York Journal of Commerce)

BOLIVIA GRANTS PRIVILEGES TO CONSUMER COOPERATIVES. In 1941 the Bolivian Government laid out an elaborate plan for the organization of rural cooperatives for the purpose of promoting the production of wheat, barley, cotton, and cattle. Now, by a recent decree, cooperatives which have executive approval will be relieved of all or a large part of many taxes and will have preference in shipments and in distribution of any rationed merchandise. (New York Times)

BOLIVIA SUFFERING FROM INCREASED FOOD PRICES. Oranges are sold for 3 cents (U. S. Money) per dozen in the lowlands of Bolivia, and for 3 cents each in La Paz, the capital of the country. Bananas that used to sell for seven-tenths of a cent for a bunch of 30 now cost two-tenths of a cent each. But prices of foods other than fruits have risen way out of proportion to wages. Potatoes, meat, sugar, and other staples of diet are for the most part imported and are almost unbelievably high. Many people are reduced to chewing constantly coca leaves, which, somewhat like opium, subdue hunger pangs and leave one dull. The answer for Bolivia is better railroad communication between the different parts of the country itself and between Bolivia and other countries. (New York Times)

BRAZIL TO PAY DIFFERENTIAL FOR OVERLAND HAUL OF COFFEE. Because of impaired shipping facilities, the United States Government, until recently, accepted Brazilian shipments of coffee for the West coast at Atlantic or Gulf ports and then sent it overland, paying the differential between the overland and the oversea transportation. When shipping conditions improved, that differential payment was cancelled. Still there were no ships going from Brazil to Pacific ports, and coffee for Pacific ports was piling up in Brazil. Now the Brazilian Government has taken up the differential payment and will refund to shipper a half cent per pound for the transcontinental haul. The payment will be in coffee against presentation of the bill of lading. This will enable stocks of coffee to move once more from Brazil to the West coast. (New York Times)

FREE STORAGE ON SOME GOODS CUT IN COSTA RICA. Free storage in the customs warehouses of Costa Rica has been reduced from 30 to 10 working days for several articles, including grains and most foodstuffs, cotton textiles, agricultural tools and implements. (Export Trade and Shipper)

WORK ON MILITARY HIGHWAY THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA SUSPENDED. Work on a military highway through Central America to the Panama Canal Zone has been suspended. No cause was disclosed. Regarding the announcement of the suspension, the President of Costa Rica said that it "constitutes a hard blow to Costa Rican economy." (Christian Science Monitor)

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HAITI CONTRIBUTES MATERIALS FOR WAR AID. Fertile land, hitherto used for production of rice, peas, and corn in Haiti is being sacrificed for the development of the cryptostegia vine as a source of rubber and for the production of sisal fiber. Approximately 150,000 workers are engaged in collecting the latex fluid from which a high grade of white rubber is manufactured, and 80,000 to 90,000 in collecting the fiber. (New York Times)

MEXICAN CROPS THREATENED. Sugarcane and rice crops valued at \$1,000,000 in Michoacan State, Mexico, are threatened with destruction, because ashes from Paracutin Volcano have clogged irrigation ditches. (Christian Science Monitor)

MEXICO RELEASES MORE WORKERS TO HARVEST UNITED STATES CROPS. The Mexican Government has agreed to release 70,000 laborers, an increase of 20,000, for the duration of the war, to help harvest United States crops. (Washington Post)

PANAMA STRIVING TO CONTROL LIVING COSTS. The Government of Panama is increasing its efforts to control living costs. A "meatless Monday" has been decreed because of indiscriminate selection of cattle for slaughter. The potato shortage is due to be relieved late this month. (Export Trade and Shipper)

PERU'S COTTON CROP REDUCED. An earlier estimate of this year's cotton crop in Peru will probably have to be revised downward because of unseasonal rains, general prevalence of insects, and reduced acreage. (New York Journal of Commerce)

PERU'S OIL OUTPUT GOOD. Peru's output of crude oil and natural gasoline for the first half of 1943 totaled 7,816,160 barrels. In 1942 the year's output totaled 14,632,530 barrels. (New York Journal of Commerce)

CANDY COMING FROM LATIN AMERICA. Candy is coming into the United States by the carload from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Argentina, and Central American republics. Uncle Sam's appetite for sweets is to be satisfied. (New York Times)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 511

October 22, 1943

UNITED STATES DRUG-DISTRIBUTING AGENCIES SET UP IN LATIN AMERICA. In the past, Axis interests dominated the drug market in Latin America. Now United States drug, pharmaceutical, and medicinal companies are setting up 25 distributing agencies in order to obtain a larger share of the markets. The new companies will overcome the obstacles presented by growing trade regulations and barriers to foreign trade, and products made in this Hemisphere will supplant Axis-made items. (New York Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINE CASEIN PRICES DECREASE. Because the new production season will start in a few days and Argentine exporters do not wish to be caught with large stocks of casein, they have cut prices to 10½ cents per pound, cost plus freight. The recent arrival in the United States of 9,000 tons of casein from Argentina will relieve temporarily the urgent need for that product. WPB has raised allotments of casein 40 percent and has authorized paint manufacturers to use 65 percent of their consumption in 1942. (New York Journal of Commerce)

GIFT OF COFFEE FROM BRAZIL RECEIVED. Four hundred thousand bags of coffee, valued at more than \$5,000,000 have been delivered as a gift from the people of Brazil to the American fighting forces. The gift was accepted in Rio de Janeiro by high officials of the United States Army and Navy and by a civilian employee of the War Department, in the presence of United States Ambassador Caffery and various other officials and newsmen. A sample bag was stenciled with the Brazilian and the American colors arranged in V-shape. (New York Times)

BRAZILIAN MENTHOL ARRIVES IN UNITED STATES. About 16 cases of menthol have come from Brazil. The quantities arriving, however, are not enough to meet the needs. As a result of the shortage, a great many preparations will be off the market during the coming season. (New York Journal of Commerce)

COLOMBIA TO HAVE LARGE NATIONAL EXPOSITION. The national exposition which was originally scheduled for October will be held in December, in Medellin. The Government of the Department of Antioquia is planning to make the fair a pageant of Colombia's economic and cultural progress during the past 10 years. Industry, manufacturing, and agriculture will be emphasized in the exhibits. Of approximately \$142,000 contributed for the exposition almost \$50,000 has been set aside for agricultural and dairy awards. A similar exposition was held in Medellin in 1932. (Export Trade and Shipper)

PROMOTION CORPORATIONS IN CHILE AND COLOMBIA PROVING EFFECTIVE. The Fomento organizations are playing a major role in the accelerated program of development in agriculture, mining, and industry in Chile and Colombia. They promote basic industries and the processing of local raw materials which private industry and capital have not been able to utilize sufficiently. They strive to overcome supply difficulties arising out of wartime disruption of trade, foster such industries as tannin and milk-pasteurization plants, and work for the expansion of the sugar industry. (Export Trade and Shipper)

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AGREEMENT FOR CUBA'S SUGAR CROP CONCLUDED. The agreement for sale of Cuba's 1944 sugar crop to the United States at 2.65 cents per pound has been concluded. That is the same price paid for Cuba's 1942 and 1943 crops. Reliable sources claim that unless a favorable deal is also made for the sale of Cuban molasses to this country there will be a severe recession for Cuban sugar-producing companies. (New York Journal of Commerce)

PEPSI COLA COMPANY PURCHASING CUBAN SUGAR PROPERTY. The Pepsi Cola Company is reported to be arranging for the purchase of the España sugar mill, near Perico, Matanzas Province, owned by the Chase National Bank. The price involved is said to be \$3,500,000. About 370,000 bags of sugar of the next crop are expected to be produced by the mill. (New York Times)

CUBAN SUGAR MILLS TO GET BAGS FOR SUGAR CROP. About 5,300,000 sugar bags are to be released to sugar centrals that have not yet filled their quotas of the 1944 crop. Orders for the bags must be accompanied, in accordance with a recent decree, by certificates obtained from the Cuban Sugar Stabilization Institute in Havana. (New York Journal of Commerce)

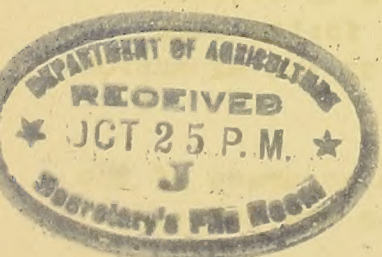
SEIZURE OF CUBAN SUGAR MILL APPEALED. The Cuban-American Sugar Company has presented an appeal to the Supreme Court asking that the seizure of the mill at Tinguaro be declared unconstitutional on the grounds that the sugarcane belonging to the mill was ground last year by an adjacent mill. (New York Times)

MEXICO FORBIDS USE OF CORN FOR LIQUOR. A recent Presidential decree banned the use of corn for the manufacture of alcoholic beverages. The purpose of the ban is to release for food a large quantity of corn that is now stored in warehouses and plants of manufacturers. (New York Times)

ESTIMATE OF MEXICO'S SUGAR CROP IS LOWER. The forecast of Mexico's sugar crop for this season is now 450,000 metric tons as given by the Ministry of Agriculture. Earlier this year the Ministry estimated the production at 500,000. Mexico's sugar crop of last year was 410,000 tons. The new crop is expected to cover all domestic sugar demands and leave a surplus for export. (New York Journal of Commerce)

NICARAGUA MOVES TO CONTROL LARD. In view of a scarcity of lard, the Nicaraguan Minister of the Treasury has issued an order prohibiting the export of hogs and lard. Also, to control the rising price of lard, the price-control board is issuing import permits for lard to be sold at a price stipulated by the agency. (New York Times)

PERU CONTROLS PRICES. All commodities sold in Peru have been made subject to price control. Ceiling prices are based on those prevailing between April 1 and 30. Fixing of prices of imported goods at the time of clearance through customs has been authorized. (New York Journal of Commerce)



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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 512

October 29, 1943

MOST-FAVORED-NATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED AMONG LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. With the intention of expanding trade among themselves, several South American republics have signed agreements granting unlimited most-favored-nation treatment in matters of trade regulations, customs duties, and duty-free import allowances. Among these are the Colombia-Ecuador agreement, signed in 1942, and the one between Brazil and Chile, which was recently ratified. The United States is on a most-favored-nation basis with both Brazil and Chile. (New York Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA CURTAILS OIL EXPORTS. Argentina has prohibited export of sunflower oil, and nearly all stocks of peanuts will be crushed locally to take the place of olive oil. (Washington Evening Star)

NEW PLANT SPECIES REPORTED FROM BRAZIL. Mulford B. Foster of Orlando, Fla., who has returned recently from an expedition into Brazil, reports 50 new plant species found in that republic. (Washington Evening Star)

MEAT SHORTAGE IN BRAZIL IS ACUTE. The Armour and Wilson packing houses have been closed for some time. The alleged reason is a shortage of cattle due to the long drought just ended and the fact that the cattle are so thin that slaughtering them would be unwise. Since the exportation of meat is prohibited, however, the packing houses are expected to be able to meet the Government demands that they obey the law regarding the delivery of meat quotas to market. During the meat shortage poultry prices rose 150 percent. (New York Times)

CHILE PLANS EXTENSIVE ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT. Chile has announced one of the most ambitious projects ever attempted by a South American country for the electrification of its territory. The numerous torrential rivers flowing down the Andean slopes to the Pacific make possible this development of low-cost hydro-electric power over nearly the whole length of Chile's 2,600 miles bordering the Pacific Ocean. The project is considered necessary to supply energy "to put in motion its economic resources." The plan calls for an expenditure of nearly \$100,000,000 over a period of 18 years. (New York Times)

RUBBER TO COME FROM HAITI. The experiment of SHADA (Société Haitiano-Américaine de Développement Agricole) in producing rubber in Haiti is going steadily forward. In order to plant a sufficient number of Cryptostegia grandiflora vines from which to obtain an output of 10,000 tons of rubber by the end of another year, some 100,000 fertile acres are being utilized. This year only 100 tons of rubber can be expected. About 1-1/2 acres of land for raising food have been left around each peasant farmer's thatched cottage. More thorough cultivation is planned generally in order to increase rather than decrease food supplies. The production of the rubber requires from 50,000 to 60,000 Haitian workers (at a going wage of 36 cents a day), because the work is all done by hand, and some speculation is arising as to the result of this agricultural experiment after the war. (Article in Washington Evening Star, by special arrangement with The St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

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FOOD PROMISED FROM HAITI. President Elie Lescot, who is at present in the United States, promises that a heavy increase in food production in Haiti, undertaken as an aid to the United Nations war effort, will continue after the war is over. (Christian Science Monitor)

MEXICO'S CORN SUPPLY SHORT. A long drought in many parts of Mexico cut the current corn crop to about 50 percent of normal, and then heavy rains damaged the newly planted winter crop. Such shortages, of this and other important foods, are contributing to the rise in prices, which the Government is striving to control by the freezing of prices and wages, as has already been reported. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO URGED TO CULTIVATE MORE OIL-BEARING PLANTS. Vegetable-oil processors and soap manufacturers have petitioned the Mexican Government to encourage the cultivation of oil-bearing plants. (New York Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO "FEEDING ITS CHILDREN." Even among the most out-of-the-way communities, the Mexican Department of Indian Affairs is establishing economic, technical, and industrial rehabilitation centers for Indian boys and girls. Through agricultural courses the boys are taught how to plant fruit trees and aid in making the most of the land. Girls learn to spin and weave silk and wool, preserve fruits, make conserves, and become homemakers. Twenty-three centers have already been established and others are to be opened soon. (Christian Science Monitor)

MOLASSES NEGOTIATIONS WITH PUERTO RICO BROKEN OFF. Negotiations for shipments of Puerto Rican molasses to the United States for use in the alcohol-production program have temporarily broken down as a result of the low prices offered producers. Similar discussions with Cuba were broken off some weeks ago. Although the price ceiling for molasses in the New Orleans area is now approximately 18 cents a gallon, Cuban producers were offered 5 cents a gallon and Puerto Rican 6 cents. Both groups refused the Defense Supplies Corporation's offers. Negotiations are understood to have been reopened with Cuban producers. About 13 cents a gallon is the price asked. Since tankers necessary for transportation are reported to be available, the price seems to be the only obstacle now standing in the way of successful negotiations. (New York Journal of Commerce)

URUGUAY RECEIVES GIFT FROM UNITED STATES FOR SANITATION. The Government of Uruguay has announced acceptance of a gift of \$500,000 from the United States Office of Coordination of Inter-American Affairs to be devoted to sanitation and health work. Similar gifts have been made to other Latin American countries out of a special fund in the Coordinator's office. (Washington Post)

URUGUAY RESTRICTS RUBBER SALES. Sales of rubber and rubber goods, except used rubber, are prohibited in Uruguay. (Export Trade and Shipper)

URUGUAY BUYS SUGAR FROM BRAZIL. The Uruguayan Government has been authorized to purchase 128,000 bags of sugar from Brazil, which will be held in customs by the Bank of the Republic for release to domestic dealers at a fixed price. The price has not been announced. (Export Trade and Shipper)